

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 27 and 28 are in the case. The subject matter cancelled in this amendment has been deleted without prejudice to the possibility of pursuing that subject matter in a separate continuing application.

I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

It is noted that claims 4-6 remain free of the prior art. In light of that indication, and in order to expedite prosecution, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 4, and claim 4 has been cancelled without prejudice. With this amendment, it is believed that the application has been placed in allowable condition.

II. THE 35 U.S.C. §112, FIRST PARAGRAPH, REJECTION

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9 and 27-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. In response, and without conceding to the merit of this rejection, claim 1 has been amended to remove the language “consisting essentially of” and to reinstate the previous language “containing” which has not been objected to during the prosecution in the present application. Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, rejection is now respectfully requested.

III. THE 35 U.S.C. §112, SECOND PARAGRAPH, REJECTION

Claims 2, 4-6, 9, 27, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite in view of the language "consisting essentially of...". In response, and without conceding to the merit of this rejection, claim 1 has been amended to reinstate "containing" in place of "consisting essentially of". Withdrawal of the outstanding 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejection is now respectfully requested.

IV. THE ANTICIPATION REJECTION

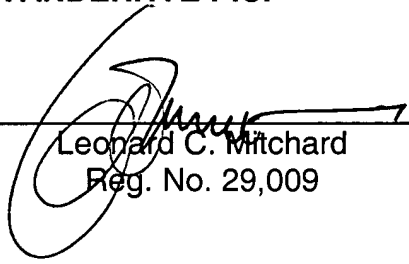
Claims 1, 2, 9, 27 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Yotka et al. In response, and without conceding to the merit of this rejection, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 4 which is not rejected on anticipation or other prior art grounds. In view of this amendment, the outstanding anticipation rejection has been rendered moot. Withdrawal of that rejection is accordingly respectfully requested.

Allowance of the application is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

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